

Michigan Association of School Psychologists (MASP) Student Mental Health Apprenticeship Program for Retention and Training (SMART Bill)

What is the SMART Apprenticeship Program?

- The SMART bill/state-funded “Grow Your Own” program provides paid work experiences and practicum opportunities for School Psychology graduate students to attract more people to the field
- The State of Michigan funds student “Grow Your Own” programs at each district/ISD that qualify for the initiative after applications have been approved.
 - Each school psychology graduate student who works at a school/ISD that meets the criteria for the program earns \$25/hour for 20 hours a week for 30 weeks, which is equivalent to \$15,000 per year
 - School Psychology graduate students from Michigan and other states can participate in the program. Students must complete “Grow Your Own” work experiences in districts/ISDs in Michigan, but can be enrolled in training programs in other states.
 - School districts and ISDs who meet the requirements for SMART can pay stipends to students who participate in the SMART program by utilizing 31ff funds
 - School districts, institutes of higher education, and ISDs are able to apply and receive 31ff funds for multiple students who are completing their practicum experiences in an eligible district or ISD.
 - School districts and ISDs who do not qualify for SMART 31ff funds are able to utilize district money or 31aa funding. To utilize 31aa funds for SMART, schools/ISDs must indicate on the 31aa application that they would like to use the 31aa funds for that specific purpose.

What are typical roles for SMART Apprenticeship/“Grow Your Own” school psychology students?

- **1st year graduate students in school psychology:** Under supervision by a school staff member/School Psychologist - Conduct observations, conduct file reviews, serve as paraprofessional in the classroom, assist with secretarial roles that are related to one’s future career as a school psychologist (set up IEPs, METs, and send out/ collect paperwork), work as a substitute teacher
- **2nd year graduate students in school psychology:** Student completes requirements of practicum, as well as additional tasks under the close supervision of a certified school psychologist - achievement testing, MTSS coach, implementing PBIS programs, consultation, file reviews, observations of

students, teacher interviews, parent interviews, scheduling and coordinating meetings

What are the requirements for districts/ISDs to qualify for SMART 31 ff funds?

- Based on the requirements put forth in the SMART legislation the district/ISD must meet one of the following requirements
 - The individual is interning in a public school in which not less than 50% of pupils enrolled are eligible for free or reduced-price meals under the Richard B. Russell national school lunch act, 42 USC 1751 to 1769j
 - The individual is interning in a public school that received funding under section 22d of the state school aid act of 1979, 1979 PA 94, MCL 388.1622d, in the immediately preceding school fiscal year.

What are the requirements for students after graduation for the SMART Bill?

- Students who receive a stipend from SMART 31ff funds are required to work as a school psychologist for three years in Michigan.
- Students who are provided with funding through 31aa are not obligated to work in Michigan after graduation

What are the advantages of the SMART Bill for Districts/ISDs?

- Invest in school psychology workforce now and in the future
- Address current critical shortage of school psychologists and resulting unfilled positions
- Build mental health capacity across school districts/ISDs in Michigan
- Support current school psychologists and prevent burnout
- Novel solution for immediate and long term shortage in department: students complete routine tasks and free up psychologists for more complex or sensitive work

How can I establish a SMART/ “Grow Your Own” school psychology position?

- Contact a School Psychology program director in Michigan to gather information and connect with students who are interested in participating in the program
- MASP created an online [apprenticeship database](#) for positions. Districts/ISDs are able to [post apprenticeship positions](#) in this database

What School Psychology programs are in Michigan and neighboring states? Who are the program directors?

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